



# Branching Out

## Creating Connections to End Sexual Violence

Spring 2021

Volume 15, Issue 1

### ***SAAM: We Can Build Safe Online Spaces***

By Samantha Sustachek



Welcome to another Sexual Assault Awareness Month! While last year's SAAM had to go virtual in an unexpected and impromptu manner, this year's virtual SAAM is fully planned, and the National Sexual Violence Resource Center (NSVRC) has chosen "We Can Build Safe Online Spaces" as the theme. We here at SAS had already decided long before this theme was announced that we would be taking our SAAM virtual again this year, and we hope you'll join us in honoring the month by taking part in some of the many events and activities we have planned.

Are you a TikTok-er? Or maybe, more realistically, do you know a teenager who is a TikTok guru? If so, we have a fun contest in the works for anyone who loves to make TikTok videos. From now until April 23<sup>rd</sup>, create a video that shows one of the following:

- A way that you have helped build safe online spaces by intervening when you see something inappropriate
- What a safe online space looks like to you
- How you have experienced online sexual harassment and its impact
- What consent looks like

To enter the contest, the video must tag @BeLEAFSurvivors and include the hashtags: #SAAMWeCanBuild and #BeLEAFSurvivors. Submissions will be accepted from April 1<sup>st</sup> through April 23<sup>rd</sup>, and the winner will be selected on April 30<sup>th</sup>. The prize is a \$25 Amazon gift card.

If you're more of an observer than a creator, consider joining us for one of our remaining virtual learning opportunities.

- "Sexual Assault, Consent, Grooming, and More" was presented in partnership with the Racine Public Library on April 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm. The presentation focused on healthy relationships, consent, grooming, and human trafficking. Our goal in providing this presentation was to help parents and other adults learn ways to help keep the children of our community safe. If you know of a group who would be interested in a similar presentation, please contact us. We would be happy to facilitate this discussion again.
- "Pathways to Resiliency & Wholeness" was presented in partnership with [CORE/El Centro](#) on April 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm. This free, one-hour presentation explored how difficult life experiences impact an individual physically, emotionally, mentally, and spiritually. Participants learned to engage in self-care practices to help return them to a place of wholeness. This presentation went over very well with attendees, and we may have the facilitator return for a part two at some point. Watch the [events page](#) on our website for upcoming opportunities.

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# ED Update

By Karen Fetherston

## New Leadership for BeLEAF Survivors/Sexual Assault Services

Greetings! My name is Karen Fetherston and I have been named the new Executive Director of BeLEAF Survivors/ Sexual Assault Services (SAS). I am proud to be leading Racine's rape crisis center in providing a safe and compassionate environment to promote hope and healing after sexual assault. SAS is the only program in Racine County dedicated solely to the provision of services for sexual assault victims including crisis intervention, advocacy, therapy, and community awareness and education.

I have had a long career in social services and I bring decades of experience to this new role. I started my career at the Stop Child Abuse & Neglect (SCAN) program in 2000. SCAN has often been referred to as SAS's "sister program" because they share overlapping missions as well as physical office space and they often cooperate on initiatives pertaining to the prevention of sexual abuse. I served in many positions at SCAN over the past 20 years culminating in my current role as BeLEAF Survivors' Executive Director. The job that I enter is challenging and a bit intimidating. It brings to mind a quote from Mother Theresa: "I know God will not give me anything I can't handle. I just wish that He didn't trust me so much."

My focus will be representing the organization in the community and coordinating the implementation of agency operations including planning, policy creation, and resource development. This is particularly important approaching the launch of SAS as an independent nonprofit under the new name of BeLEAF Survivors in July 2021. I will be in the community working to form strong relationships and a firm foundation for ongoing support to the community. I would also like to collaborate with clients, partners, allies, and stakeholders to ensure that BeLEAF Survivors/ Sexual Assault Services will continue to lift, empower, advocate, and fight for survivors. This is such an exciting time to be a part of this organization as we grow into our independence!

I am a very approachable person, so if you want to reach out to give advice, share suggestions, or cooperate on ideas or initiatives, I would love to hear from you. You can reach me at [kfetherston@beleafsurvivors.org](mailto:kfetherston@beleafsurvivors.org) or 262-619-1634.

—Karen

- "SAAM Close-out: Self Care & Meditation Session" will take place on April 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm. Join us for a meditation session, a time to unwind after SAAM, followed by a brief discussion on ways you can practice self-care. To sign up click [here](#).

You could also wear your jeans on Denim Day, April 28<sup>th</sup>. Denim Day began after a ruling by the Italian Supreme Court where a rape conviction was overturned because the justices felt that since the victim was wearing tight jeans she must have helped the person who raped her remove her jeans, thereby implying consent. The following day, the women in the Italian Parliament came to work wearing jeans in solidarity with the victim. Each year, SAS staff join advocates and supporters across the country in wearing our jeans to show support for survivors everywhere and spread the message that what a victim is wearing is never an excuse for sexual assault. Or do even more good with your denim by starting a workplace campaign to raise funds for SAS and the survivors we serve. Visit the official Denim Day [website](#) for more information about the day and instructions for running a successful campaign.

Finally, join us on social media all month long for informative posts and articles. Find and follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#) so you don't miss any of the fun and information. Remember to like and share to help us spread the word about SAAM, safe online spaces, consent, and more. SAS is also participating in the #30DaysofSAAM Instagram contest. If you have an Instagram account you can join in on the fun too. Visit the [NSVRC's](#) website for the prompts and get creative with us this April. You can do one day or all 30, and you might even win prizes (and Instagram bragging rights, of course)!

We hope you'll find a way to recognize and honor SAAM this month, whether you take advantage of SAS's upcoming events, do some posting on social media, or wear your denim to raise awareness. There are so many ways to get virtually involved. Here's to a successful and meaningful SAAM 2021!

—Sam





# Legislative Update

By Vicki Biehn

The Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault (WCASA) and End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin (EDAW) held their biannual Legislative Advocacy Day on March 23, 2021. This year's event was a little different in that it was all held virtually due to the pandemic. On Legislative Advocacy Day, advocates, survivors and other concerned citizens can meet with their representatives to discuss concerns about legislation that may arise during the upcoming legislative session.

This article will be an overview of upcoming bills in the Wisconsin state legislature that impact sexual assault survivors.

## **1. Sexual Assault Kit (SAK) Collection and Processing AB 67/SB 71**

The state of Wisconsin previously had over 6000 SAKs that were not submitted to a crime lab for testing. This bill will ensure that Wisconsin does not experience another backlog of unsubmitted SAKs in the future by creating specific timeframes during which law enforcement must collect a kit and send the kit to the crime lab for processing. This bill restores some power to survivors by providing them with clear options and expectations regarding their health care, the collection of forensic evidence, and reporting to law enforcement.

## **2. Sexual Assault Kit Tracking System AB 87/SB 95**

This bill will provide survivors the ability to anonymously track the location and status of their SAK throughout the justice system process. Currently 29 states (including all of our neighboring states) and the District of Columbia already have this tracking system in place. This would put Wisconsin in line with many other states and empower survivors. Empowering survivors is one of the first steps towards healing from the trauma.

At this point the Wisconsin Senate has passed both of these bills. Now the bills need to go to the Assembly Criminal Justice Committee for a hearing, pass the committee, and then go to the floor of the Assembly for a full Assembly vote.

## **3. Sexual Assault by Law Enforcement Officer AB 127/SB 199**

Currently correctional staff members are prohibited from any sexual contact with a person who is confined in a correctional facility, and consent is not an issue, because the statutes recognize the imbalance of power between correctional staff members and inmates. This means that actual consent to sexual contact is not possible in these situations.

*This bill will close an existing gap in Wisconsin sexual assault laws by making it a crime for a law enforcement officer to have sexual contact with a person in their custody, because consent is not possible in these situations too. Currently there is bipartisan support for this bill and the senate has held a public hearing in the Judicial Committee.*

## **4. Terminating a Tenancy for Fear of Imminent Violence AB 58/SB 67**

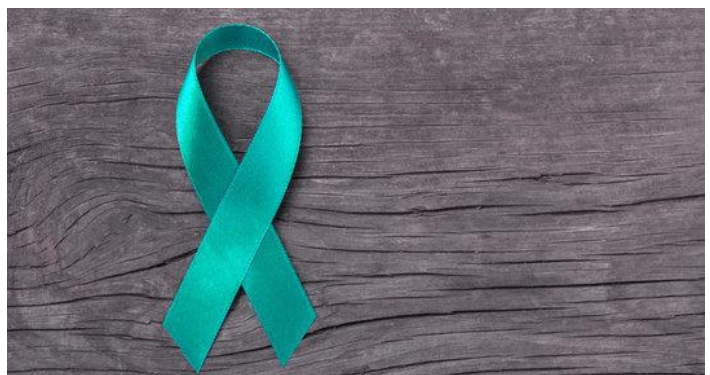
*This bill allows survivors to terminate their tenancy if they or their children fear imminent violence and face an imminent threat of serious physical harm if they remain on the premises. This bill addresses limitations in current law for sexual assault victims by allowing a different requirement to terminate the lease, a written statement from a victim advocate who has a reasonable basis to believe that the tenant is a victim of sexual assault. Currently, a survivor can only terminate a lease by providing their landlord a copy of an injunction against the perpetrator or a copy of a criminal complaint alleging that they are a victim of sexual assault. Unfortunately, most sexual assault victims do not report their assault and even fewer offenders are arrested or prosecuted. This requirement made it impossible for many survivors to terminate their leases and therefore they had to continue to live in fear of their offenders. Currently this bill has had the committee hearings in both houses, needs to be voted on the floor by the Senate and passed out of the committee from the Assembly and then voted on by the Assembly.*

## **5. Safe Harbor Bill LRB-2164**

*This bill would remove the ability to charge a sex-trafficked child with prostitution. We should not arrest and charge child sex trafficking victims when they are too young to consent to sex. This bill would bring Wisconsin state law in line with the federal Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA). Currently this bill has bipartisan support and is circulating for co-sponsorships in both the Senate and Assembly.*

This article is a very general update, so if you would like more detailed information on this legislation or on the legislative process, please contact Vicki Biehn at 262-619-1634 or [vbienh@focusracine.org](mailto:vbiehn@focusracine.org) or Ian Henderson from the Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault at [ianh@wcasa.org](mailto:ianh@wcasa.org).

—Vicki







# Rompiendo la Barrera

*Breaking the Barrier*

By Annabell Bustillos

## Supporting Women of Color Survivors

As we work to address sexual violence, we understand that there are many identities that overlap and intersect, such as race, class, ability, sexual orientation, and gender identity. All of these identities have a great impact on the risk of experiencing sexual violence as well as accessing services for healing and support after an assault. Race especially plays a huge role. According to the findings from the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS), 3.5 in 10 White, non-Hispanic women reported victimization in their lifetime. The rate increased to 4 in 10 for Native, Black, and Hispanic women, and 5 in 10 for women who identified as multiracial. Because of this, we must focus on anti-oppression work so that we can create social change and, in time, help prevent sexual violence.

Recently, I came across a fact sheet from The Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence that discusses sexual violence and women of color. This fact sheet contains helpful information for providers, agencies, and systems to consider when providing services to women of color who are sexually victimized. I would like to share them below:

- **Diversity within communities of color:** Just as there are differences between and within white communities, so too are there differences between and within communities of color. For example, not all Black women have the same beliefs, expectations or experiences by virtue of their race alone.
- **How sexual violence is understood:** How rape and other forms of sexual violence are understood can vary from one culture and community to the next, and may or may not coincide with legal definitions.
- **Cultural response to sexual violence:** Different cultures, communities, and individuals have different expectations and methods of responding to sexual violence. For example, some cultures believe the rape of a woman brings great shame to her family and surrounding community. Others are expected to keep sexual violence private or within the family/community.
- **Influences of family, community, and faith:** Any survivor's family, social, and faith community impact her

Recovery. These various forms of community can have a positive and/or negative impact on the survivor.

- **Legal status:** Some immigrant women of color are targeted for sexual violence based on their legal status and may fear reporting or seeking services. For example, an undocumented survivor may be reluctant to come forward for fear of being deported and may not trust claims of confidentiality.
- **Distrust of white systems:** The majority of advocates, healthcare professionals, criminal justice officials, and mental health providers are white, and the larger systems in which these individuals operate are dominated by historically white-defined laws, policies, and practices. Women of color who are sexually victimized have historically been ignored, devalued, or delegitimized by these systems.
- **Trauma and adverse economic and health outcomes:** There is significant historical trauma in the lives and histories of women of color, who are also more likely to suffer multiple traumas and adverse economic and health issues than white women. All of these factors impact the individual survivor's experience of, and response to, an individual incident of sexual violence.
- **Barriers to access:** Women of color often face numerous barriers to access which prevent or discourage them from reporting sexual violence or receiving supportive services. Such barriers include language access issues, lack of diversity among victim services staff, transportation difficulties, and lack of service structures that honor their cultural identities, needs, beliefs, and styles of expression.

*Cont. on page 6*

## SAS Program Statistics July-December 2020

|                                 |     |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| Crisis Line Calls.....          | 165 |
| Racine Hospital Visits.....     | 44  |
| Burlington Hospital Visits..... | 3   |
| Legal Advocacy Sessions.....    | 40  |
| CAC Appointments.....           | 53  |
| Counseling Sessions.....        | 512 |
| Support Group Sessions.....     | 12  |
| Community Presentations.....    | 3   |



# Family Advocate

By Christa Dasher

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## Building Safe Spaces for Children Online

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month, and the theme this year focuses on building safe online spaces. Building safe online spaces is not only crucial for adults but children as well. This has become increasingly true as the pandemic continues and kids spend increasing amounts of time online. With many schools being closed, there is generally less supervision of kids. Also, with children being at home and doing virtual learning, they have more opportunities and greater access to the internet and technology. The pandemic has also caused relationships to shift online. This leaves children at greater risk for cyberbullying and sextortion and may lead to the self-production of sexual abuse material. The National Center For Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) reported a 90% increase in public reports to the CyberTipline from January 1st through June 30th, 2020, over reports made during all of 2019. There was also a 93% increase in reports of online enticement during that same time period. In general, the number of reports has been increasing every year, likely due to more awareness surrounding the issue, so the pandemic may not be the sole reason for the increase in these reports.

There are multiple safety threats that children may encounter in their time online. These include cyberbullying as well as various forms of child sexual exploitation such as child sexual abuse material (CSAM, also referred to as child pornography), online enticement, sextortion, and child sex trafficking.

As caregivers and community members, you may wonder how you can make sure children are safer online. One of the first things that we need to do is stop focusing on stranger danger when discussing body and internet safety. We teach children to look out for strangers with candy or the man in the white van. We hardly ever talk about the possibility that the abuser could be an uncle or even a child's own parent. According to NCMEC data, in 68% of cases of reported actively traded CSAM, the exploiter had a direct access relationship to the child. When we emphasize stranger danger, we make it confusing for children if they experience sexual abuse or exploitation from someone they know and care about. This may make it less likely that they will recognize and disclose it as abuse.

There are technological options that are available to help keep kids safer while using technology and the internet. The use of filtering and monitoring software can help you prevent kids from seeing sexually explicit content online and can

sometimes notify you if they receive inappropriate messages. You can also contact your cell phone provider, and they may have monitoring options available to you. Ask children about and educate yourself about the apps they are using. Many apps have options for disabling chat features or allow you to limit who the child can talk with online. Research the devices you will have before purchasing them. They may have built-in monitoring options or software available for purchase.

While technology can help keep children safer online, it can't catch everything. The most important way we can help keep kids safe online is by communicating with them about what they are doing online. Some of the things to ask them about include: What are their favorite apps? Who do they talk to when they play games online? And what kinds of photos do they post? Have these conversations regularly so they know that you are always available and have an open mind. As adults, it is often our first response to take away technology or online access if an issue is identified. It is important that children know that you won't freak out and stop them from going online if something happens. You may not be able to protect them from everything, but you can teach them how to make responsible choices when they encounter a potentially dangerous situation. We must start having these conversations at a young age. We often wait until the teenage years to begin having these conversations, and often that is too late. You can talk to younger children about online manners, not trusting everyone you meet online, and helping them to identify inappropriate content. For older tweens and teens, you can talk about cyberbullying, sexting, posting personal or inappropriate information, and meeting offline. Like anything else, online safety education needs to be built on over time and will not come overnight.

NCMEC has many great resources for parents and children on digital citizenship and online safety at [www.missingkids.org/netsmartz/home](http://www.missingkids.org/netsmartz/home). This article's information was adapted from the presentation on online safety for parents, guardians, and communities from NetSmartz.

—Christa





# Face to Face

By Kari Wilder

There is no doubt that language is a powerful tool. It has the power to start a war or to bring peace. It has the power to uplift someone and give them the courage necessary to succeed or to make them feel small and defeated. When it comes to social justice movements, including the anti-trafficking movement and the women's rights movement, language impacts how the public responds to the issue and how someone sees themselves within the movement.

As cases involving the trafficking of children hit the news, the media often refers to the survivor as a "child prostitute." According to a report from the Human Rights for Girls and the Raben Group between the years of 2010 and 2015 there were 5,000 instances where the term "child prostitute" was used in print and online journalism. Prostitution is a legal term. It is one that turns a victim into a criminal. Under federal law children cannot consent to sexual activity, but the term "child prostitute" implies that the child had a choice. The appropriate language should make it clear that the only criminals in the exploitation of children are the individuals who decided to buy and sell children. Using the term "child prostitute" causes society to view the child as the problem. It causes them to view the child as someone unworthy of the support and services they need and instead society sees them as someone who deserves to be punished.

It is also common to hear survivors referred to as "young women" or "underaged women." This again puts the blame on the survivor. It shifts the focus from the real problem and implies that the survivor should have known better because they are close to adulthood. These survivors are children and should be referred to as such. It is unfair to them and their experiences to refer to them as anything else.

Unfortunately, whether the media chooses to describe the survivor as a victim or to place the blame on them and their family often depends on the race and ethnicity of the survivor. The cases of Jacyee Dugard and Elizabeth Smart were on multiple news outlets, their faces were all over social media, and the words used to describe the survivors were overwhelmingly positive. They were described as strong women and as survivors while the blame was placed solely on their perpetrators. Their survival and their return home were considered miraculous. In contrast, in the cases of Cyntoia Brown and Chrystul Kizer they were painted in a negative light and their

perpetrators were seen as their victims. Both Brown and Kizer were children who were sold and purchased for sex who murdered either their buyer or trafficker in order to survive. Even though Brown shared with the police that she was being trafficked and that the person she killed purchased her for \$150 and threatened her life with numerous weapons, she was still sentenced to two consecutive life sentences. Women of color are more likely to be seen as prostitutes than as victims of exploitation by not only the media but by law enforcement as well. According to the FBI, in 2017 Black children accounted for 52% of juvenile prostitution arrests despite the fact that under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, federal law protects these children and defines them as victims incapable of prostitution.

It is important that we ask ourselves how we expect children to come forward after they have been exploited and trust us to provide them with the support and treatment they need if we continue to talk about them and treat them as criminals? These children are part of our society and take on our views. If we continuously paint them in this negative light where they are to blame for adult decisions and actions, we place a barrier between them and the help they need to heal. By simply changing our language we can open the door to all these survivors who are currently dealing with their trauma on their own. They carry a shame that is not theirs to carry, and we are to blame.

—Kari

<https://rights4girls.org/wp-content/uploads/r4g/2018/09/JJ-DCST-Sept-2018-final.pdf>

<http://www.takepart.com/article/2015/09/23/child-prostitute-no-such-thing>

*Rompiendo la Barrera cont. from page 4*

- **Resilience:** Women of color – as a whole, culturally, and individually – possess resilience from surviving historical trauma to managing present-day institutionalized racism, and sexism. Advocacy and support services should acknowledge how women of color thrive in spite of their harsh realities and incorporate this resilience into service structures.

As a community we must remember that racism and sexual violence are closely connected. People of color face many barriers and challenges to accessing mainstream victim services. We have an obligation to explore these connections and work to dismantle systems of oppression and bias that perpetuate sexual violence and racism.

—Annabell

<https://www.oaesv.org/site/assets/files/1324/oaesv-sexual-violence-women-of-color.pdf>  
[National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey: 2010 Summary Report \(cdc.gov\)](https://www.cdc.gov/nipw/2010-summary-report/)





# Helping Hands

By Scarlett Kinderman

## Sexual Assault and The Military – Is There A Problem?

There is a glaring problem in our military and its name is Sexual Assault. Take the experience of Teresa James, a Bronze Star recipient with multiple accolades. She was a rising star who received rave performance reviews that said, “Exceptionally exemplary” or “Promote now.” What would transform later performance reviews from exceptional to “communication difficulties” or “made some decisions which caused me to question her judgment?” To some, it will come as no surprise that shortly after she reported being raped by a superior officer, she was passed over for promotion to colonel and subsequently ended her military career. In her own words, “You go from hero to zero in a matter of hours after you report this thing.” This is just one example, from many, of the lack of support for survivors and the significant issues that must be addressed in our military.<sup>1</sup>

A recent Department of Defense study of this issue in the Army showed that the situation is not improving, and numbers for sexual assault, sexual harassment, and associated retaliatory behaviors are at the highest levels yet recorded. The internal study reported that there are 5.5 reports of sexual assault per 1,000 soldiers in the Army alone. Despite showing these large numbers, it still does not give a full picture across the whole military. The issue is somewhat recognized and documented in every branch of the military. So, why is it still so prevalent and rising? People in power, who help make policy, are surprised about the issues. After reading the report put out by the DOD, Undersecretary James McPherson said “It became emotional for me. Just reading, reading what those junior female soldiers were going through ... the more I read it, the more I thought to myself, ‘This can’t be my Army. This just can’t.’”<sup>2</sup>

There is also a misconception that rape is only a women’s issue. Meet Paul Lloyd. He joined the National Guard at 17. One night he was assaulted in the showers. He told no one what happened, even after he was admitted to the hospital for internal bleeding the next day. “I felt like I couldn’t say anything,” he said. “I would look like a total failure — to my family, to my platoon, to myself.” There is also the experience of Billy Joe Capshaw. He was raped by Jeffrey Dahmer, while both served in the military. “I couldn’t,” Mr. Capshaw later recalled in an interview. “You say you’ve been raped by another man; people blame you; they shame you. They just don’t

get how something like this can happen.” For males in the military, it is estimated that there are over 10,000 assaults each year and that four out of five of these men do not report their assault. Women also report about 10,000 assaults each year. The yearly numbers for women may appear to be about the same, however, there are far fewer women than men serving. A woman in the military is almost seven times more likely to be sexually assaulted than a man.<sup>3</sup>

Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy was surprised by “the high numbers of individuals that were concerned about reporting because of fear of retaliation from someone in an echelon above them”.<sup>4</sup> When a culture actively shuns or hinders reporting, it raises the question of how many sexual assaults really occur in the military? If individuals do not feel comfortable coming forward, nor do they have support when they do, how will the issue of sexual assault ever truly be addressed? The first step is acknowledging the problem exists and that the current leadership does not do enough to protect our soldiers. Next, action must be taken to solve the problem. President Biden is very clear in his comments about this. “Sexual assault is abhorrent and wrong at any time. And in our military, where so much of unit cohesion is built on trusting your fellow service members to have your back, (this is) nothing less than a threat to our national security.”<sup>5</sup>

What does the future hold? With public and institutional awareness of the problem now rising, it is time to move into action. Priority needs to be given to fixing a broken system that allows this to happen. Education to raise awareness to those both inside and outside of the military system should be a priority. And most importantly, those who have been victims need the appropriate resources and support to heal and become whole. A well-rounded approach to this issue will give voice to the hope that sexual violence in the military can end once and for all.

—Scarlette

<sup>1</sup><https://www.jsonline.com/in-depth/news/2021/03/17/national-guard-members-who-reported-sexual-assault-retaliated-against/6922371002/>

<sup>2</sup><https://taskandpurpose.com/news/truth-about-false-sexual-assault-reports/>

<sup>3</sup><https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2019/09/10/us/men-military-sexual-assault.html>

<sup>4</sup><https://twitter.com/CBSEveningNews/status/1336315072289890310>

<sup>5</sup><https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/speeches-remarks/2021/03/08/remarks-by-president-biden-on-international-womens-day/>



## Help SAS Grow Into BeLEAF Survivors!

Sexual Assault Services has been operating in the community for over 20 years, first as a program of Lutheran Social Services and more recently as an associate of Focus on Community. But exciting changes are ahead in July 2021 when SAS will become an independent nonprofit under the new name of BeLEAF Survivors.

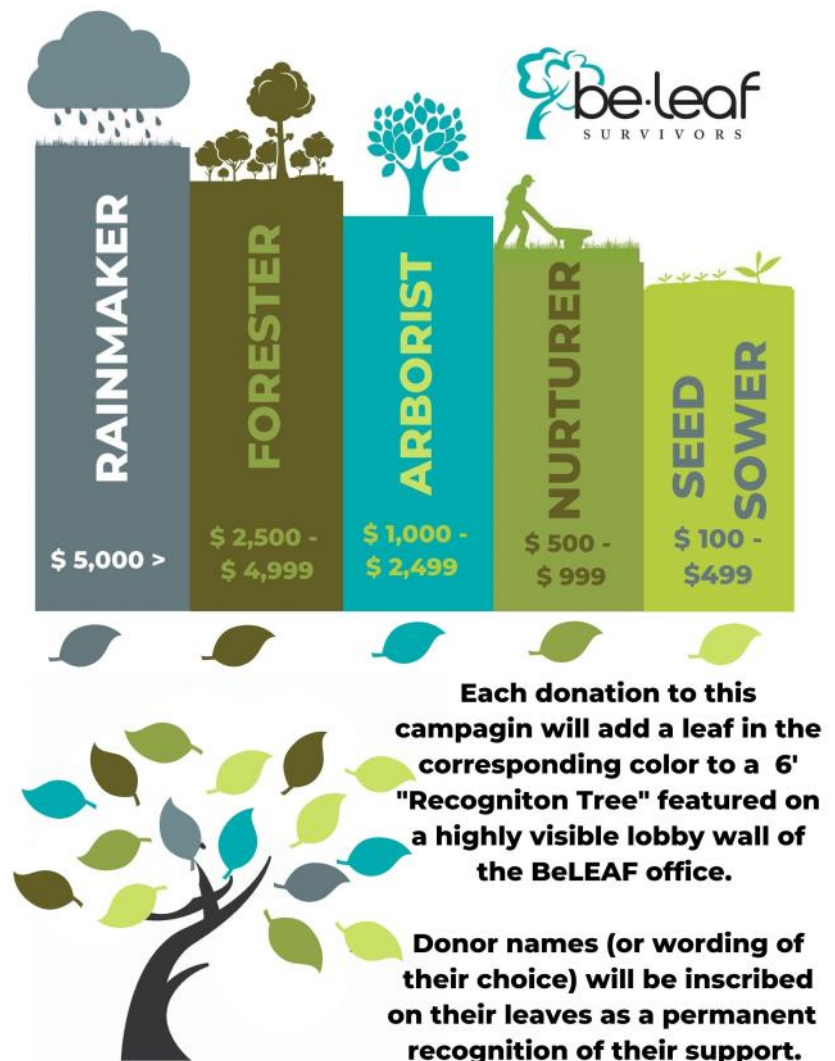
Like SAS, BeLEAF Survivors will provide a safe and compassionate environment to promote hope and healing after sexual assault. The "LEAF" portion of BeLEAF means lifting, empowering, advocating, and fighting for survivors, allies, and a culture of consent. BeLEAF staff and location will remain and all SAS services will continue uninterrupted. These include crisis intervention, therapy for survivors and their support people, advocacy, and community education.

With BeLEAF Survivors "branching out" and becoming an independent 501(c)(3), we are looking for ways to establish a reserve fund to give us a firm foundation. Given our importance to the Racine community, we are humbly asking the community's help to make our launch into independent nonprofit status as financially secure as possible. Our goal is to raise \$30,000 from a community campaign between May 1- July 1, 2021. We hope that you will see our partnership worth the investment.

While we happily accept any donation, any monetary gift above \$100 will be given special recognition on a beautifully handcrafted recognition tree display inside the BeLEAF office space. Please see the attached flyer for a description of donation levels and representation of the display. You can donate as an individual, gather family or organization gifts into a single larger donation for greater recognition, or opt for recurring monthly gifts that will total to a larger giving level.

How can you donate? Starting May 1, 2021: 1) go to [beleafsurvivors.org/donate](https://beleafsurvivors.org/donate); 2) or mail a check to BeLEAF Survivors (2000 Domanik Drive, 4th Floor, Racine, WI 53404) and be sure to include an email or phone number so we can coordinate recognition details.

Thank you for your consideration. Should you have any questions or need more information, please feel free to email Karen Fetherston at [kfetherston@beleafsurvivors.org](mailto:kfetherston@beleafsurvivors.org) or call her at 262-619-1634.





Sexual Assault Services  
2000 Domanik Dr. 4th Floor  
Racine, WI 53404

### Contact Us!

SAS Racine Office  
2000 Domanik Dr. 4th Floor  
Racine, WI 53404  
262-619-1634

SAS Burlington Office  
480 S. Pine St.  
Burlington, WI 53105  
262-763-6226 Ext. 109

24 Hour Crisis Line: 262-637-SAFE (7233)  
Spanish Warm Line: 262-424-3134 (M-F 8a-5p)  
Website: <http://www.sasofracine.org>

### Stay Connected!



Join our News and Events email update list! Would you like to receive information on upcoming SAS events and volunteer opportunities? Email Samantha Sustachek at [ssustachek@focusracine.org](mailto:ssustachek@focusracine.org) with "SAS news and events" in the subject line and she will include you in all SAS news and events related emails.

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*Sexual Assault Services seeks to create a safe and compassionate environment to help promote the healing of sexual assault survivors and their support people.*

*Sexual Assault Services is funded by United Way of Racine County, Victims of Crime Act grant, Sexual Assault Victim Services grant, the Racine Dominican Mission Fund, the Racine Community Foundation, and the support of generous local donors.*